

No amendments to the claims have been made in this reply. A listing of claims is provided for the Examiner's convenience.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A printing apparatus having at a printing station, a print head with an array of heating elements individually energisable by a computer controller, a feed path for feeding carrier ribbon through the printing station, the carrier ribbon carrying a layer of thermally sensitive print medium, pixels of the thermally sensitive print medium being in use deposited on a print area of a substrate, by selectively energising the heating elements, as the substrate and print head are relatively moved, the apparatus including a backing member and the substrate being positioned in use between the backing member and the carrier ribbon, and wherein the print head is mounted by a mounting structure for generally linear movement towards and away from the substrate, one of the mounting structure and print head including a projecting part which projects towards the other and at least during printing, engages with the other of the mounting structure and print head, there being a resilient member between the mounting structure and the print head, which allows resiliently resisted movement between the mounting structure and print head with the projecting part engaged with the other of the mounting structure and print head, and there being at least one fastener to couple the mounting structure and print head together.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein between the print head and mounting structure there is provided a resilient spacer, the spacer having a thickness slightly greater than the extent of projection of the projecting part.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the projecting part is provided on the mounting structure, and at least a tip of the projecting part is hardened to provide a bearing surface.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein there is a pad of hardened material on the print head.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the printing apparatus is an intermittent printer in which during printing, the print head moves at the printing station and the substrate and carrier are one of stationary and moveable, and the backing member is stationary during printing.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein during printing the print head moves at the printing station and the substrate and carrier are one of stationary and moveable, and the backing member moves with the print head relative to the substrate and carrier.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus is a continuous printer in which the print head is stationary at the printing station and the backing member is stationary, whilst the substrate and carrier move past the print head.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the print head is moved at least towards the substrate just prior to printing by a single acting actuator, and the print head moves away from the substrate under the action of a spring.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the print head is moved towards the substrate just prior to printing to an in use position, and is moved away from the substrate to a retracted position between printing, by a double acting actuator.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the double acting actuator moves the print head in response to control signals from the controller of the printer, and the double acting actuator, in response to a specific control signal from the controller, moves the print head away from the substrate beyond the retracted position.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the specific control signal from the controller is generated in response to a signal from a substrate thickness sensor which senses the thickness of the substrate, when the sensor senses that a thick part of the substrate is about to pass through the printing station.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the printing apparatus includes a carrier ribbon supply spool and a carrier ribbon take-up spool, the carrier ribbon feed path being from the supply to the take-up spool through the printing station, each of the take-up and supply spools being driven by a drive motor so that the supply spool and take-up spool are rotated when it is desired to feed ribbon, the motors each being a D.C. servo motor and each of the supply and take-up spool having a rotation sensor to sense spool rotation.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 12 wherein to enable the spools to be stopped quickly, the controller of the apparatus provides a reverse voltage to the motors.

Claims 14-26 (Cancelled)